

AGRICULTURAL HINTS.

PRUNING.

An Important Point and But Little Understood by Many Gardeners.

There is no point in connection with gardening that is really so little understood as pruning, says the Ohio Farmer. We have heard some preach the doctrine of "prune not at all," but we presume they have been forced to teach such doctrine from having seen some fearful illustrations of bad work. Then there are those who advocate pruning whenever the knife is sharp, and they must have been taught in the miseries of some neglected orchard. There is no doubt whatever that it is safer to prune not at all than to have a sharp knife in the hands of an ignoramus. It is quite certain the comparative neglect and indifference into which the cultivation of the dwarf pear has fallen has been caused by the bad mistakes of ignorant pruners. It is not at all uncommon to see a dwarf pear tree in the spring with all its young vigorous growth cut away. Nothing but fruit spurs left. All the force is thus sent into the flowering condition. The trees are a mass of bloom, but the fruit is few and far between. A judicious thinning out of weak branches, so as to get a good form to the tree, is about all the pruning required. If there is a tendency to produce an over-proportion of fruit spurs, cut out a good portion of them.

Apple trees often require pruning when somewhat advanced in years. The old, stunted branches should be cut out now and then whenever a young and vigorous shoot is inclined to take its place. Peach trees especially should be subjected to this sort of pruning. The grapevine when trained on lattice-work or trellises is very liable to have its strong branches at the end of the vine, and the good pruner is ever on the alert to get a young, strong branch up near the ground. When he can get this he often takes out an older one weakened by age or bearing, and replaces it with youth and vigor. The rule in pruning grapevines is to shorten the shoots in proportion to their strength, but of course those who are following any particular system will prune according to the rules comprising that system. As a general rule, however, we can say that excellent grapes can be had by any system of pruning, for the only object in any case is to get strong shoots to push where they may be desired, or to add to the increased vigor of the shoot and increased size in the fruit it bears.

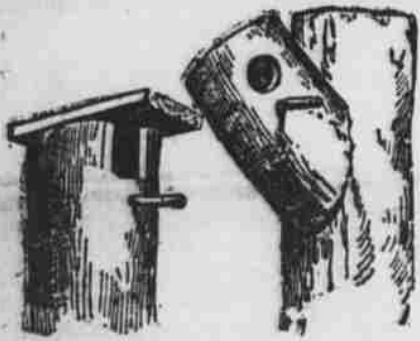
BIRDS IN THE GARDEN.

Here is a Writer Who Regards Birds as His Friends.

I am not one of those who think birds a nuisance in the garden. I gladly give them a chance at the fruits they desire between their forages on insects. There are more songsters and less insects in my garden I think than in any other for a long distance around.

One thing that conduces to the presence of birds is my encouragement to them to rest on my grounds. I inclose a sketch of several homes for birds made of sections of tree trunks that I have located in my garden.

The blocks were sawed off and afterwards hollowed out sufficiently for a nesting-place by the use of an inch augur. The section to the right was bored out from below, after which an entrance was bored in from the side and



SIMPLE DEVICES FOR BIRDS' NESTS.

a lighting stick provided; then it was nailed to a tree to represent a stump. The smaller one had an opening made from the top, over which a roof was nailed, as shown in the sketch. It certainly does not require unusual skill or ingenuity to build a number of breeding boxes of these or similar designs and fasten them into the trees for the little feathered policemen, who pay well by their efforts in insect destruction for the fruits they consume.—Popular Gardening.

The yield of a single grain of wheat is never less than forty-fold under favorable conditions, and when sown thin it should be much greater. Every pound of wheat should produce a bushel in all sections where wheat is successfully raised. In rainy sections the portion of starch in the grain increases three or four per cent, while the gluten decreases in a similar proportion, compared with dry regions like Colorado. The three superficial coverings of wheat constitute the bran, while the next three layers are composed of gluten, the most valuable part of the grain. It constitutes ten to sixteen and one-half per cent of the grain, and the more gluten there is in the wheat the better its quality. The middle of the wheat grain is mostly starch, comprising about sixty-six per cent of its bulk.

The farmer who makes his own pork and beef puts another bond on health and pays himself for so doing.

Farm puts the most flesh on young hogs.

VALUE OF CORN FODDER.

An Interesting Discussion by Prof. Henry, of the Wisconsin Experiment Station.

A. B. T., Corning, Ia., writes: "Tame hay is selling in this section at \$5 per ton. What would be the value per acre of stalk fields—corn about fifty bushels to the acre?"

Our experiment stations are each year throwing considerable light upon this subject, and fortunately we have from this source some data which will help considerably in the discussion, though there is much yet to be wrought out. The first part of the problem is the yield of corn-stalks per acre when the grain amounts to fifty bushels. The report of the Pennsylvania Experiment Station by Dr. Armsby for 1887 gives some valuable figures in this line. Here is the grouping by him of the yield of corn and corn fodder (stover) at four experiment stations:

YIELD OF CORN AND CORN FODDER (STOVER) AT FOUR EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

	Bush.	Stover.
New Jersey (Dent).....	4,774 lbs.	4,041 lbs.
Connecticut (Flint).....	4,216 lbs.	4,360 lbs.
Wisconsin (Dent).....	4,541 lbs.	4,490 lbs.
Pennsylvania (Dent).....	3,727 lbs.	3,490 lbs.
Average.....	4,415 lbs.	3,881 lbs.

Prof. Sanborn at the Missouri, after studying the subject carefully, concludes that corn-stalks (dry fodder) which produce a bushel of shelled corn will weigh eighty pounds. This shows that it requires a greater weight of stalk to produce a bushel of shelled corn in Missouri than in States farther North, a fact which I think will be generally admitted. From observation I think the farther South we go in the corn belt the larger and heavier the stalks in proportion to the amount of shelled corn. In the following table we have the digestible nutrients in a ton of timothy hay, clover hay, and fodder corn; also the amount of nutriment found by Armsby in an acre of corn fodder:

DIGESTIBLE CONSTITUENTS.

	Protein.	Carbo-hydrates.	Fat.
1 ton timothy hay.....	70 lbs.	636 lbs.	30 lbs.
1 ton clover hay.....	138 lbs.	770 lbs.	34 lbs.
1 ton corn fodder.....	50 lbs.	702 lbs.	12 lbs.
1 acre corn fodder (Armsby).....	83 lbs.	1,473 lbs.	22 lbs.

By the above we observe that a ton of corn fodder is worth just about seven-eighths as much as a ton of timothy hay, as measured by the results obtained in digestible trials. We can not compare fodder with clover hay satisfactorily, because the clover hay is nearly three times as rich in protein as the corn fodder, while it contains only about ten per cent. more carbo-hydrates. The table shows that Prof. Armsby found that an acre of corn-stalks contained nearly twenty per cent. more digestible protein, over fifty per cent. more digestible carbo-hydrates and ten per cent. more fat than a ton of timothy hay. In Iowa, where there is a yield of fifty bushels of shelled corn per acre, there must be fully two tons of field-cured corn-stalks per acre, which, by the above figures, may be said to be worth about five-sevenths of that many pounds of hay.

So much for the subject when studied from the chemical side together with actual digestion trials. I never feel satisfied, however, with the mere chemical statement in questions of this nature, though I believe much light is thrown upon such practical subjects by the investigations of the chemist. Very fortunately we have fed corn-stalks in actual competition with hay, and our results will enable us to approach the subject from the practical side. In our feeding trials one lot of cows received corn fodder, fed long, while another lot received mixed clover and timothy hay. After feeding for a time and carefully noting the results we changed the feed for the lots so as to eliminate individual difference so far as possible. With the stalks and hay were fed limited amounts of corn-meal and bran, giving about the same amount per cow per day to both lots of animals. The following table is deduced from actual results in the stable. Be it understood that the corn-stalks had the ears husked from them before feeding:

Food required for 100 lbs. of milk when feeding corn-stalks—193 lbs. of corn-stalks, 25 lbs. of corn-meal and 35 lbs. of wheat bran.

Food required for 100 lbs. of milk when feeding mixed hay—71 lbs. of mixed hay, 26 lbs. of corn-meal and 36 lbs. of wheat bran.

Food required for 100 lbs. of milk when feeding clover hay—60 lbs. of clover hay, 26 lbs. of corn-meal and 37 lbs. of wheat bran.

Here we find that 193 lbs. of corn-stalks fed long, together with a certain amount of grain, produced 100 lbs. of milk, while with the same cows under the same conditions 71 lbs. of mixed hay or 60 lbs. of clover hay, with practically the same amount of grain, produced 100 lbs. of milk. These trials show that corn-stalks fed long have 37 per cent. of the value of mixed hay. In the trials, however, we found that 34 per cent. of the weight of our fodder remained uneaten.

Actual feeding trials at this station, then, show that 37 lbs. of mixed hay equal 100 lbs. of about corn-stalks, or 55 lbs. of mixed hay equal 100 lbs. of finely-cut corn-stalks. An acre of corn-stalks, then, when uncured, is worth 1,460 lbs. of mixed hay, and when reduced to fineness by the feed-cutter is worth 2,200 lbs. of mixed hay. This gives a value to the stalk-fields of \$3.68 per acre in the first case, and \$5.50 in the second.—Breeder's Gazette.

Keep pieces of chalk where the young animals can lick them.

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

—George Bancroft, who is now eighty-nine years old, says he still remembers his early literary days, when he received two dollars for a long article, and was very glad to get it.

—The collection of Korean books lately acquired by the British Museum possesses considerable interest and importance. It consists of Korean editions of the Chinese classics, of native historical works and of novels.

—The name of Pushkin is exceedingly popular throughout Russia. Every anniversary of the death of the poet, who fell in an unfair duel fifty years ago, is religiously observed, while the name of his murderer is abhorred.

—Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett wrote her four stories—"That Lass o' Lowrie's," "The Fire at Grantley Mills," "Pretty Polly Pemberton," and "The Fortunes of Philippa Fairfax"—all within less than a year and four months.

—Paul Du Chailu, the author and traveler, is a small, round-shouldered man, about fifty-two years old. He is far from good-looking, but has a vivacity of manner and brightness in his conversation which make the listener forget his want of good looks.

—Marshall P. Wilder learns from his London publishers that the copy of his book, "People I've Smiled With," which was presented to the Prince of Wales, was bound in morocco and had the title and presentation engraved in silver. The cover tips were also silver. Mr. Wilder and the Prince are great friends.

—John G. Nicolay, one of the writers of the Century life of Lincoln, is the son of German peasants and began his career as a boy in a country store at four dollars a month; he regarded himself lucky when he was promoted from that position to be printer's devil in the office of the Pike County Free Press, and gradually worked himself up to be editor and proprietor; he is now Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States.

—A London gossip gives the following story as illustrative of Lord Tennyson's "peculiar manners in society." In his early days, when he had no greater horror than that of being lionized, a great lady wished to introduce to the laureate a musician who had set some of his songs to music. A party was given for the occasion. The laureate appeared, and the musician sang his songs to him with every power of expression that he knew how to produce. At the end of the performance every body waited the word of the poet. There was a blank silence. The hostess feared that the songs had not produced a good impression. The silence became agonizing. At length, from the corner where Tennyson sat came a voice choking with emotion: "Do you not see that I am weeping?"

HUMOROUS.

—An article in an exchange is entitled: "How to Live on \$20,000 a Year." We should think it might be done—if a man had the \$20,000.—Norristown Herald.

—George—"The ring doesn't seem to fit very well, Clara. Hadn't I better take it back and have it made smaller?" Clara—"No, George; an engagement ring is an engagement ring, even if I have to wear it around my neck."—Judge.

—In Court—"Prisoner, have you any thing to say in your defense?" "Your honor, I beg you to consider before pronouncing the sentence that the only reason I steal is so as not to be loafing about the streets all day."—Fliegende Blaetter.

Conductor (crowded car)—"Plenty o' room inside." Passenger (one of forty hanging to straps)—"Plenty of room, eh? Where is it?" Conductor (wrathfully)—"Alongside o' you, you selfish hunk o' humanity. Want ter keep that strap all ter yerself, don't yer?"—N. Y. Weekly.

—Editor—"We can't accept this sketch—it isn't true to life—it represents a messenger boy running." Artist—"But he isn't carrying a message." Editor—"Isn't he?" Artist—"No; he's running to a fire." Editor—"Well, that alters the case. Put in the fire and we'll accept it."—Yankee Blade.

—City Cousin—"How's your father, James?" Country Cousin—"Father isn't very well." City Cousin—"He must be getting along in years." Country Cousin—"Only eighty-nine last spring." City Cousin—"What seems to be the matter with him?" Country Cousin—"Can't just say; I guess farming's beginning to tell on him."—Time.

—White Citizen—"Well, Jackson, what are you doing for a living now?" Colored Citizen—"Ain't doin' nothin'; de ole woman takes in washin'." White Citizen—"Ain't you ashamed of yourself to allow your wife to support you by washing?" Colored Citizen—"Well, boss, my ole woman am a mighty ignorant nigger, an' doan' know how to do nuffin' else."—Munsey's Weekly.

—Financier—"You literary men haven't the least idea about business. Here you have about ten thousand manuscripts piled up in this dark cupboard, and you say they are all paid for?" Editor Great Magazine—"Years ago." "Just think of it! Hasn't it ever occurred to you, sir, that you are losing the interest on all money you paid out for those useless bundles?" "Huh! You financiers haven't the least idea about literature. Every one of those manuscripts is from a different author, and the whole ten thousand of them will go on buying our magazines at a shilling a copy until the articles are printed."—Exchange.

The Pride of His Class.

He was a bright, handsome boy of sixteen, sunny-tempered, brilliant and engaging, the delight of his parents, the joy of his home, and the pride of his class. But a shadow fell across his bright prospects. It began with a trifling cough; soon came premonitions of consumption, his strength failed, his cheeks grew hollow, and he seemed doomed to an early grave. Then a friend advised Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. He tried it and was saved. Health and strength returned, his cheerful voice rang out again across the school playground, his cheeks again grew rosy, his eyes bright. He is still "the pride of his class" and he graduates this year with highest honors.

CHRONIC NASAL CATARRH positively cured by Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. 50 cents, by druggists.

THE real-estate man wants the earth, and usually has some ground for such a desire. —Kearney Enterprise.

Consumption on Surely Cured.

TO THE EDITOR:—Please inform your readers that I have a positive remedy for the above named disease. By its timely use thousands of hopeless cases have been permanently cured. I shall be glad to send two bottles of my remedy FREE to any of your readers who have consumption if they will send me their express and post-office address. Respectfully, T. A. SLOCUM, M. D., 181 Pearl street, New York.

WHEN a man having a round million asks a maid in marriage, he seldom gets a flat refusal.—Boston Transcript.

Florence, Ala.

The personally conducted excursions to Ala. rapidly growing. More than thirty years ago Dr. Schallenberger, of Rochester, Pa., discovered an Antidote for Malaria, and the medicine has had a large sale without newspaper advertising. Could a live and prosper so many years without help! We are now telling the public through the newspaper that such a remedy is within the reach of every sufferer from Malaria, and shall state nothing that does not square with absolute truth. A. T. SHALLENBERGER & Co., Rochester, Pa.

THE scissors editor of a newspaper is apt to make a great many cutting remarks.—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

It is a common belief that all advertisements of medicines are gross exaggerations or downright lies. More than thirty years ago Dr. Schallenberger, of Rochester, Pa., discovered an Antidote for Malaria, and the medicine has had a large sale without newspaper advertising. Could a live and prosper so many years without help! We are now telling the public through the newspaper that such a remedy is within the reach of every sufferer from Malaria, and shall state nothing that does not square with absolute truth. A. T. SHALLENBERGER & Co., Rochester, Pa.

THE highest ambition of some men is to be seen on a corner talking with a policeman.—Texas Siftings.

I HAVE used Bull's Sarsaparilla with entire success in cases of syphilis, scrofulous and other skin and glandular diseases. It is the best medicine manufactured for that purpose.—James Moore, M. D., Louisville, Ky.

WHEN a man is attacked by "la grippe" it makes him weak in his knees and strong in his nose.—Kearney Enterprise.

THE very best way to know whether or not Dobbins' Electric Soap is as good as it is said to be, is to try it yourself. It can't deceive you. Be sure to get no imitation. There are lots of them. Ask your grocer.

WHEN the grip gets complicated with suicide it generally proves fatal.—Boston Herald.

My friend, look here! you know how weak and nervous your wife is, and you know that Carter's Iron Pills will relieve her, now why not be fair about it, and buy her a box!

It takes a pretty sharp remark to cut a slow man to the quick.

HOLLOW-EYED little children, worms are gnawing at their vitals. Their pleading looks should make a mother quickly get them Dr. Bull's Worm Destroyers.

A LAWYER convinced against his will charges for each correction still.—Puck.

You can't help liking them, they are so very small and their action is so perfect. One pill a dose. Carter's Little Liver Pills. Try them.

Love and liquor make the world go round.—Washington Star.

Don't Neglect a Cough. Take some Hale's Honey of Horehound and Tar instantly. Pike's Toothache Drops Cure in one minute.

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Frost-Bitten Sore Feet.
Stockton, Cal., April, 1890.

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Mrs. LEONE GLASER.

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